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Leptartectia, an interesting new genus, of the transformations of which we shall eagerly await information.

We hail with pleasure the appearance of this first work on Californian insects by a native entomologist, and wish it every success.

FOURTH REPORT OF THE PEABODY ACADEMY OF SCIENCE.*—This report is mostly occupied with original papers in natural history, representing the work done in the museum or upon specimens contained in its collections. In his paper entitled "Synopsis of the Family Heteropygii," Mr. Putnam gives a detailed account of this interesting family, represented by the Blindfish of Mammoth Cave, and its allies found in certain subterranean streams and wells and rice ditches of the Southern states, of which a popular account has been given in this journal.

The paper by Mr. Scudder, entitled "A Systematic Revision of some of the American Butterflies; with brief notes on those known to occur in Essex County, Mass.," will afford food for thought to entomologists, and will interest European as well as American naturalists. This important essay "gives a digest of the results reached by a critical examination of the structural features of many American butterflies—principally those of New England. The earlier stages of these insects, as well as the perfect forms have been subjected to careful study." Some sweeping changes have been made by the author both in the classification and synonymy of this important group, based on more thorough study, we venture to say, than has ever before been given to the group. We deem this paper one of the most important contributions to entomology that has appeared for several years.

In the succeeding short papers by Dr. Packard are descriptions of a few new moths from New Mexico and California, and a "List of the Coleoptera collected in Labrador," the specimens having been identified by Dr. Horn.

Appended to the report is the "Record of Entomology for the year 1871." From it we learn that thirty native entomologists have contributed entomological notes and papers during that year. This record is invaluable to entomologists, as showing what work has been done both in America and Europe on our native species.

* Fourth Annual Report of the Trustees of the Peabody Academy of Science, for the year 1871. Salem, 1872. 8vo, pp. 147. Price 75 cents.

We trust that entomologists will aid in supporting this enterprise, and send the small pittance of 50 cents asked for a separate copy.

BIRDS OF KANSAS.*—The first edition of Professor SNOW's "Catalogue of the Birds of Kansas" has already been noticed in these pages,† and some of its shortcomings briefly mentioned. We have now the second edition of this work, in which the deficiencies of the first are fully supplied. The number of species has been raised from 239 to 282, and many typographical and other errors amended. Few species probably now remain to be added except such as are accidental or casual visitors. We notice that *Centrocercus urophasianus* has been stricken out, and that among the many important additions are *Garzetta candidissima*, *Herodias egretta*, and *Graculus Mexicanus*, not previously reported from Kansas. The latter (*Graculus Mexicanus*) we are informed was identified by Professor Baird, and forms the first known instance of its occurrence north of the Rio Grande. The nomenclature is that of the ninth volume of the Pacific Railroad Reports, and hence a number of species are admitted that are not now usually regarded as valid. In addition to Prof. SNOW's own observations, he has availed himself of all the aid within his reach, and has thus given us a highly valuable and creditable list of the birds of Kansas. It forms a neatly printed pamphlet of 16 pages, and has a less number of typographical errors than similar brochures usually have, though we find "*Ereunetes*" printed for *Ereunetes*, "*Passarella*" for *Passerella*, etc.—J. A. A.

BOTANY.

FERTILIZATION OF YUCCA BY A MOTH.—At the Dubuque meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Prof. RILEY gave an abstract of a paper which will appear in full in the Transactions of the St. Louis Academy of Science. He briefly described the generic and specific characters of a little moth which is one of the most anomalous known to entomologists. He first described how many of our flowers, such as the *Asclepias* and orchids, were curiously constructed so as to be incapable of

* Catalogue of the Birds of Kansas, contributed to the Kansas Academy of Sciences. By Frank H. SNOW, Professor of Natural History and Meteorology in the University of Kansas, at Lawrence. Second edition, Oct., 1872. 8vo. 16 pp. 25 cents.

† Amer. Nat., vol. vi, pp. 359, 482, 483.